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Sep 5th 2018

Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I am writing express my sincere hope that the FCC will do the right thing and continue to enforce the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and reject the petition filed by USTelecom to selectively forbear this statute.

I am opposed to any legislation that strengthens the already uncompetitive and anticapitalist US telecommunications industry. It is preposterous to argue, as USTelecom does, that providing the major phone companies with the option of not honoring agreements that maintain competition will lead to reduced costs and better service!

Moreover, where I live, in San Bruno, CA, my family gets their internet from a small local internet provider. The internet speeds are very good but what is really great is the service. For example, when there was an issue with our service on a Saturday night at 10PM, we called and had the issue resolved within 15 min. Another time, when there was a hardware issue, my wife and I went for a walk, and we left instruction for the owner to come in through the back door to complete the repairs. Before we were back, he called us to confirm that everything was working and that we had indeed turned off the stove. The idea that ATT (the only other option where I live) would be able to give us such responsive personalized service if granted an even greater monopoly is simply false.

The USTelecom petition is a transparent effort by a powerful industry to take advantage of the current regulatory environment. If forbearance is permitted, they will respond to decreased competition as every business in history has done before them- by offering poorer, more expensive service and enriching themselves.

I will be watching the progression of this matter with interest,

David Stafford